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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /110 W
---------- 081960
R 290236Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3542

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4099

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AS, US
SUBJECT: SENATOR BROWN'S ANTI-US CAMPAIGN

REF: CANBERRA 4051; CANBERRA 4095

1. IN TELEVISION INTERVIEW EVENING JUNE 28 ALP SENATOR WILLIAM BROWN RENEWED HIS ATTACK CLAIMING AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN "MEDDLING IN OUR POLITICAL AFFAIRS" BY SUPPORTING LIBERAL/COUNTRY OPPOSITION DURING RECENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN. BROWN SAID HE WOULD HAVE FURTHER REVELATIONS ABOUT AMBASSADOR AT ANTI-AMERICAN RALLY IN MELBOURNE JULY 4 AND WOULD CONTINUE HIS CAMPAIGN TO HAVE AMBASSADOR RECALLED.

2. IT IS INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT BROWN IS THE FRONT MAN FOR A SYSTEMATIC ATTACK BY THE RADICAL LEFT OF THE ALP. THIS IS CAUSING DIVISION WITHIN LABOR PARTY; E.G., NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH HAS RELEASED FORMAL RESOLUTION CENSURING BROWN, AND EMBARRASSMENT OF LEADERS SUCH AS CAIRNS AND WHITLAM IS EVIDENT IN THEIR SILENCE. WHEN LANCE BARNARD CALLED ME TO EXPRESS HIS PERSONAL REGRET AT BROWN'S ATTACK, HE WAS QUIETLY CRITICAL OF WHITLAM FOR NOT MAKING A STATEMENT HIMSELF.

3. SUBTLE CARTOON IN MELBOURNE SUN HAS OPPOSITION LEADER SNEDDEN WATCHING BROWN PAINT "YANKEE GO HOME" ON A WALL. SNEDDEN
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IS SAYING "WE DIDN'T WIN, BUT WE HAVEN'T LOST -- YET". AS

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CARTOON SUGGESTS, ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN IF IT CONTIUES MUCH LONGER WILL CERTAINLY DAMAGE LABOR GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE COMPLAINED OF APATHY REGARDING ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US ON PART OF AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC. SENATOR BROWN'S STRANGE CAMPAIGN HAS CAUSED SOMETHING OF A JOLT VERY MUCH IN OUR INTEREST.

4. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO DEFINE EXACTLY WHAT EMBASSY AND WASHINGTON PUBLIC REACTION SHOULD BE TO THESE EVENTS. IT IS OF COURSE SAFEST TO CONTINUE TO TAKE THE PUBLIC POSITION OF NO COMMENT. AT TIMES A BIT OF RIDICULE IS PERHAPS INDICATED, BUT WE SHOULD NOT LEAVE THE IMPRESSION (SUCH AS CONVEYED BY PETER COSTIGAN ARTICLE JUNE 28 IN MELBOURNE HERALD) THAT BROWN ATTACK IS OF NO CONCERN TO US. THIS KIND OF REACTION MIGHT WEAKEN THE HAND OF THOSE IN THIS COMMUNITY WHO ARE SEEKING TO ALERT AUSTRALIANS TO DANGERS OF CAMPAIGN DIRECTED BY LEFTIST GROUPS BEHIND BROWN. FOR EXAMPLE, EDITORIAL IN MELBOURNE AGE JUNE 28 WARNS THAT THE QUESTION OF US BASES ON AUSTRALIAN SOIL UNDERLIES THE BROWN ATTACK.
GREEN

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